Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PFOR, KS, KN

SUBJECT: NORTH/SOUTH TALKS

REF: SEOUL 7472

1. KNRC VICE PRESIDENT LEE BUM SUK NOVEMBER 12 GAVE
AMBASSADOR INTERESTING SIDELIGHT ON RED CROSS TALKS
NOVEMBER 5. INCIDENT INVOLVED CONVERSATION BETWEEN
NORTH KOREAN REPORTERS AND ROK REPORTERS COVERING
TALKS. WHILE THE TALKS WERE IN SESSION, THREE NORTH
KOREAN REPORTERS ASKED TO TALK TO ROK REPORTERS. WHEN
MEETING ARRANGED, NORTH KOREANS, ACCORDING TO LEE BUM SUK,

ASKED THREE QUESTIONS IN FOLLOWING ORDER:

A. WHETHER NORTH/SOUTH RELATIONS AND NORTH/SOUTH TALKS WOULD BE RAISED BY PRESIDENT FORD WITH BREZHNEV, OR WHETHER PRESIDENT PARK HAD REQUESTED THAT THIS SUBJECT BE RAISED? ROK REPORTERS SAID THEY WOULD NOT BE IN POSITION TO HAVE KNOWLEDGE OF SUCH DEVELOPMENTS.

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B. WHETHER PRESS WAS GOING TO CONTINUE ITS CAMPAIGN

AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT GIVEN THE REACTION TO THE PRESS MANIFESTO? THE ROK REPORTERS ALLEGEDLY REPLIED THAT THIS WAS NONE OF THE NORTH KOREAN'S BUSINESS AND FURTHERMORE POINTED OUT THAT THERE WAS NO PRESS FREEDOM IN THE NORTH.

- C. WHETHER, IN VIEW OF THE STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS, THE REPORTEES EXPECTED A REPEAT OF THE APRIL 19, 1960 STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS? ROK REPORTERS SAID THEY DID NOT.
- 2. LEE BUM SUK ALSO MENTIONED THAT ROK INTENDED TO RAISE WITH NORTH AT NEXT NORTH/SOUTH COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING QUESTION OF ARRANGING FOR MAIL DELIVERIES BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH SINCE DPRK, AS MEMBER OF UPU, UNDER OBLIGATION TO MAKE SUCH ARRANGEMENTS, EITHER DIRECTLY OR THROUGH THIRD COUNTRY.
- 3. IN MORE GENERAL TERMS, LEE BUM SUK PESSIMISTIC ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR MEANINGFUL RED CROSS OR NORTH/SOUTH TALKS WITH BOTH SIDES TAKING INFLEXIBLE POSITIONS, AND RESORTING TO ESSENTIALLY PROPAGANDA EXPLOITATION OF TALKS. HE DID NOT, HOWEVER, INDICATE ANY INTENTION TO BREAK OFF TALKS. SNEIDER

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